REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 3, 2005 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 3, 7 and 9 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claim 10 has been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-9 are currently pending in the application. The Office Action indicated that claims 1, 4, and 5 are allowed. Therefore, claims 3 and 7-9 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

In the Office Action, claim 3 was objected to because it was dependent upon claim 2, which was previously cancelled. Claim 3 has been amended such that it is dependent upon claim 1, rather than claim 2. Thus, the objection to claim 3 is rendered moot.

Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahne (U.S. Patent No. 6,133,844) in view of Naylor (U.S. Patent No. 5,506,767). The Office Action took the position that Ahne discloses all of the elements of the claims, with the exception of a plurality of ports. The Office Action then relies upon Naylor as curing this deficiency in Ahne. The rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons which follow.

Claim 7, upon which claim 8 is dependent, is directed to a method of operating a display system. The method includes providing event signals representative of a condition of a system to a programmable controller, generating signals representative of

system state in response to the event signals, and displaying a visual representation of information representing system state in response to signals generated by the programmable controller. The system has a plurality of ports, with at least one port of the plurality of ports providing at least one of the event signals, where the at least one event signal carries information on a status of the at least one port with respect to transmission and receipt of data by the at least one port. The programmable controller further comprises a register for storing programming information, a port for receiving event information, and a processor operative to generate the signal responsive of the system state in response to the event information and the programming information stored in the register.

Claim 9 is directed to a programmable display controller for controlling a display device based on event information indicative of a current one of a set of predefined states of a communication system. The programmable display controller includes a programmable controller responsive to programming information defining a selected display state associated with each of the states of the communication system, the programmable controller being operative to generate a control signal indicative of a current display state based on the current state of the communication system and said programming information. The communication system has a plurality of ports, with at least one port of the plurality of ports providing at least one of the event signals, where the at least one event signal carries information on a status of the at least one port with respect to transmission and receipt of data by the at least one port. The programmable

controller further comprises at least one register for storing programming information, at least one port for receiving event information, and a processor operative to generate a signal in response to the event information and the settings stored in the register.

As will be discussed below, Ahne and Naylor fail to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claims, and therefore fails to provide the features discussed above.

Ahne discloses a system and method for allowing a user to program characteristics of an LED in order to convey information about the operational status of a printer. The disclosure allows a user at a computer (20, Fig. 1) to program the LED (124-128) functions of the printer (10). The computer receives output status signals from the printer and transmits to an LED driver logic circuitry in the printer display mode information based upon how the computer has been programmed by the user.

Naylor, the secondary reference used in the rejection, is directed to a universal controller providing the display of information with a variety of pre-selected output graphics and indicia, programmability to control a variety of processes and machines in a variety of applications with a variety of pre-selected input graphics and indicia, manufacturability as a standard unit in large numbers, variable programming for its different applications, and containability in a small, easily operated unit.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Ahne and Naylor fails to disclose a programmable controller as recited in present claims 7 and 9. The Office Action alleges that Ahne discloses a programmable controller as recited in the current claims. The present claims recite that the programmable controller further comprises a

register for storing programming information, **a port for receiving event information**, and a processor operative to generate the signal responsive of the system state in response to the event information and the programming information stored in the register. The programmable controller disclosed in Ahne fails to disclose a port for receiving event information. The programmable controller of Ahne only comprises a memory and printer driver software (Ahne, Column 2, line 62 – Column 3, line 5). Ahne fails to disclose that the programmable controller includes a port for receiving event information. Naylor fails to cure this deficiency in Ahne. Consequently, the combination of Ahne and Naylor fails to disclose a programmable controller as recited in the present claims.

Additionally, the Office Action acknowledged that Ahne fails to disclose or suggest a plurality of ports for receiving data information from a programmable controller. Specifically, claims 7 and 9 recite, in part, that the system has a plurality of ports, with at least one port of the plurality of ports providing at least one of the event signals, where the at least one event signal carries information on a status of the at least one port with respect to transmission and receipt of data by the at least one port. Applicants respectfully submit that Naylor, contrary to what is alleged in the Office Action, also fails to disclose or suggest the above stated limitation.

Naylor does not disclose a plurality of ports where at least one event signal carries information on a status of at least one port. Rather, Naylor discloses that "a variable annunciation or display of information in a controller is obtained by providing a controller with a variable area illumination means having a plurality of distributed

independently illuminable areas" (Naylor, Column 1, Lines 44-48). None of the elements disclosed in Naylor correspond to the ports recited in the claimed invention.

The ports recited in the claimed invention provide event signals which carry information on the status of the port with respect to the transmission and receipt of data. Elements 11A-P disclosed in Figure 1 of Naylor, and cited in the Office Action, do not correspond to the ports recited in the claimed invention. 11A-P are merely a plurality of distributed independently illuminatable areas of variable illumination means 11 (Naylor, Column 3, lines 2-5). 11A-P do not provide event signals and do not transmit and receive data. Claims 7 and 9 clearly recite that the ports are network elements which **transmit and receive data**. 11A-P of Naylor do not transmit or receive data, and thus do not correspond to the ports recited in the claims of the current invention.

Rather, 11A-P are merely display elements of Naylor and are not ports within the common meaning of the term. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, a port is a hardware interface by which a computer communicates with another device or system. This definition is consistent with that of the present specification, and therefore 11A-P are also not ports within the meaning used in the specification and claims of the instant invention. For instance, in a preferred embodiment of the claimed invention, "a first event signal 30 carrying information on the status of port 31 of the communication system 22 is processed with a second event signal 36 carrying different information regarding the state of port 31 using functions defined by the values stored in first register 28 and second register 40, and producing a signal 32 responsive to both first event signal

30 and second event signal 3. The event signals (30, 36, 38) determine the state (on, off, blink) of a corresponding one of the plurality of LED's of the display 16" (Specification, Page 5, lines 7-13). Neither Ahne nor Naylor disclose or suggest ports whose status information is carried in an event signal. Consequently, the combination of Ahne and Naylor, whether taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose a plurality of ports providing an event signal which carries information on the status of the ports, as recited in independent claims 7 and 9.

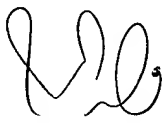
For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully assert that Ahne and Naylor, whether viewed singly or combined, fail to disclose or suggest all of the elements of claims 7 and 9. Furthermore, Applicants note that claim 8 is dependent upon claim 7. Therefore, claim 8 should also be allowed for at least its dependence upon claim 7, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Applicants respectfully submit that Ahne and Naylor, whether viewed alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest critical and important elements of the claimed invention. These distinctions are more than sufficient to render the claimed invention unanticipated and unobvious. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 1, 3-5, and 7-9 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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